

Columbia University
in the City of New York
[NEW YORK 27, N. Y.]

DEPARTMENT OF ZOÖLOGY

June 24, 1954

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
University of Wisconsin
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Dear Josh:

Thanks for your letter with the suggestions regarding our round-table. First, let me say that I will cover the adaptive randomness of mutation in one of my ~~tables~~, so you may feel free to take up recombination and drug resistance in one of yours. Then, let me add that I am only gradually becoming aware of what it will mean to be on a round table with you. Without any desire at flattery or sarcasm, I must state that, although you could talk brilliantly for an hour about "point" mutations vs. rearrangements, I can't (although I could write about it given plenty of time). But I must talk with you about something. So, to help keep me from running dry, perhaps we could talk of several things.

talks

Let me suggest the following: Suppose we take as topics some of the papers in the Soc. Gen. Microbiol. Symposium volume on Adaptation in Microorganisms. I think I could make some remarks on those of Stamer, Hinshelwood, Ravin and Slonimski. Sol will probably have discussed the work embodied in his paper and may or may not have covered the stuff in Cohn's and Pollack's. I wasn't much impressed with the remaining papers with the possible exceptions of Beale's and Abrahams.

In this way we might be able to "cover" some of the topics you mentioned e.g. relative importance of variation and selection in microbial evolution (there was no student of selection on the English program). What do you think? If you agree we could reread the volume and organize something when we meet on July 21st.

I enjoyed reading your Rutgers talk -- you are developing quite a style. The abstract you asked to have returned is enclosed.

Dr. Joshua Lederberg

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6/24/54

Best regards to Esther. I think that may be good news about Tom.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Francis". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the word.

Francis J. Ryan

FJR:vs
Enclosure